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04 AUG 2006

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Hendrew H. Colton
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
1801 K. Street, N.W.
Suite 401L
Washington, DC 20006-1201

Dear Mr. Colton:

This is in response to your letter received 02 August 2006 inquiring about the status of papers filed for a new 371 U.S. patent application for PCT/JP2003/14008 filed 17 April 2006. The papers mentioned above have been assigned serial number 10/576,012 and will be processed by the U.S. Designated/Elected Office in due course. Please be notified that the Office has an eight-month backlog in processing national applications. All further inquiries about the status of this application may be addressed to Catherine Short, Manager of the U.S. Designated/Elected Office at (703) 308-9140, extension 220 or to Terry Vessels, Supervisor of Team I, at telephone number (703) 308-9140, extension 221.

Sincerely,

Nguyễn Ngọc-Hô
Paralegal Specialist
PCT Legal Office

Tel: (571) 272-3290